

New catalog adds three new rarity ratings

One of the biggest changes in the new U.S. perfins catalog is in the ratings of individual patterns. The basic system has remained unchanged: A for the scarcest patterns and F for the most common. But there are three additional ratings: B+, C+, and D+.

The criteria for some ratings has also changed. In the past a pattern was rated A if there were five or fewer copies known. In the new system, the A rating has been extended to ten copies. In like fashion, the number of stamps known for a pattern to be rated B+ has been set at 11 through 20, the B rating has been set at 21 through 40, and C+ from 41 through 80. Other changes to the rating system are explained in the introduction to the catalog.

A cursory sampling of new versus old ratings suggests that about half the ratings in the catalog have changed.

A	947
B+	522
B	1,010
C+	683
C	977
D+	430
D	841
E	823
F	126

An interesting feature of the catalog is a breakdown of the commercial patterns by rating—shown at left.

It is interesting to note that relatively few U.S. perfins are considered really common (the F rating) while there are nearly a thousand perfin patterns for which there are ten or fewer copies known.

Ratings of individual perfins are shown below the illustration of each pattern in the new catalog.